

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

GB2004/005167

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B25J15/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B25J GO1N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 02, 29 February 2000 (2000-02-29) -& JP 11 300675 A (MAC SCIENCE:KK), 2 November 1999 (1999-11-02) abstract; figures -----	1-8
Y	US 5 775 755 A (COVERT ET AL) 7 July 1998 (1998-07-07) column 2, lines 35-40 column 2, lines 60-65 column 3, line 8 - column 4, line 3 claim 1 figures 1,3 ----- -/-	1-8

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

12 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

06.06.2005

## Name and mailing address of the ISA

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 06, 4 June 2002 (2002-06-04) -& JP 2002 036162 A (KURODA PRECISION IND LTD), 5 February 2002 (2002-02-05) abstract; figures 1,3 -----	6
X	EP 0 788 871 A (JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISION PRODUCTS, INC) 13 August 1997 (1997-08-13) figures 1a-1d -----	9,10
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 381 (M-547), 19 December 1986 (1986-12-19) -& JP 61 172671 A (NEC KANSAI LTD), 4 August 1986 (1986-08-04) abstract; figure 4 -----	9,10

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/005167

### Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: 11, 12 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
  
3.  Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

#### Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-8

Holding tool comprising a gripping unit defining an outwardly-facing gripping surface and an inwardly-facing gripping surface for gripping respectively the inner peripheral surface and the outer peripheral surface of different objects.

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2. claims: 9,10

Supporting unit comprising concentric recesses configured to receive different objects.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 11,12

**Rule 6.2(a) PCT**

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

GB2004/005167

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
JP 11300675	A 02-11-1999	NONE		
US 5775755	A 07-07-1998	NONE		
JP 2002036162	A 05-02-2002	NONE		
EP 0788871	A 13-08-1997	US 5916494 A AT 207407 T AU 701148 B2 AU 7546296 A CA 2193912 A1 DE 69616268 D1 DE 69616268 T2 EP 0788871 A2 JP 9323366 A SG 93174 A1 TW 383275 B		29-06-1999 15-11-2001 21-01-1999 03-07-1997 30-06-1997 29-11-2001 18-04-2002 13-08-1997 16-12-1997 17-12-2002 01-03-2000
JP 61172671	A 04-08-1986	NONE		

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